

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05939 141454Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SES-02 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00
/045 W

-----088227 141501Z /46

O R 141405Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3012
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA
CHUSMTM DAHRAN
USMTM/DCR RIYADH
OJCS WASHDC//J5//
USCINCEUR VAIHAINGEN GE//ECJ4/7-SA//
HQ USAF WASHDC//LEFS/XOX//
HQ DA WASHDC//DAMO/ADCSLOG//
USMTM RIYADH
CDRUSASAC ALEX VA//DRSAC//

S E C R E T JIDDA 5939

SECDER FOR ASD:ISA/DSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA, YE, US
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR YAR

REF: (A) SANA 3937 DTG 121030Z AUG 78
(B) USMTM JIDDA 121907Z AUG 78
(C) JIDDA 5694 DTG 031530Z AUG 78

1. IT APPEARS FROM GENERAL CATHEY'S MEETING WITH SAUDI
MIN DEF PRINCE SULTAN ON AUGUST 12 (REF B) THAT SAG IS
WILLING TO CONSIDER SUPPLYING YAR WITH SOME OF THE ADDI-
TIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUESTED BY YARG (REF A).
WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT SAG WOULD BE WILLING TO FINANCE
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OR EVEN FAVOR YAR ACQUISITION OF ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT
ON THE LIST. PROGRAM OF THIS MAGNITUDE WOULD COST TOO
MUCH AND WOULD PROBABLY, IN SAUDI EYES, UPSET BALANCE
THEY HOPE TO ACHIEVE: E.E., A YAR STRONG ENOUGH TO HELP
BALANCE PDRY THREAT BUT NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO THREATEN
SAUDI ARABIA (REF:). SAUDI TACTIC APPEARS TO BE TO SWEETEN
THE POT SO AS TO MAKE SAUDI-U.S. PROPOSAL PRESENTED ON

AUGUST 10-11 MORE ACCEPTABLE TO SAG.

2. WE REALIZE THAT LIST PRESENTED BY YARG ON AUGUST 11 (REF A) LOOKS AMBITIOUS AND REPRESENTS MORE THAN THEY CAN ABSORB AT THE PRESENT TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADING SAUDI POLICY-MAKERS, NSC STAFFER SAMUEL HOSKINSON BELIEVES THAT SAG APPRECIATION OF THE THREAT POSED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN PDRY IS REALISTIC. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MAY BE WELL TO CONSIDER ADDING SOMETHING FROM THE YAR LIST TO THE CURRENT SAUDI-U.S. PROGRAM. HOWEVER, WE THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A BETTER BASE THAN WE NOW HAVE FOR OUR DECISIONS AS TO WHAT WE SHOULD ADD. PRINCE SULTAN HAS ASKED FOR JOINT U.S. - SAUDI ANALYSIS OF MILITARY THREAT FROM PDRY AND THAT IS NOW BEING PREPARED. WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR US, IN TALKING TO SAG AND IN ASSISTING IN PREPARATION OF JOINT THREAT ANALYSIS, TO HAVE AN INDEPENDENT U.S. ANALYSIS FROM WHICH TO TALK.

3. WE RECOMMEND:

--A. THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DO A THREAT ANALYSIS.

--B. THAT THE DOD DEFENSE SURVEY OF YAR BE UPDATED.

--C. THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THOSE ITEMS LISTED
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IN REF A THAT MIGHT BE ADDED TO SAUDI-U.S. PROGRAM TO SWEETEN THE POT AND IN WHAT TIME FRAME; AND

--D. THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THOSE ITEMS THAT MIGHT BE PAID FOR BY USG.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE PROPOSE TO SAG THAT A JOINT U.S. - SAUDI DELEGATION TELL THE YARG:

--A. THAT WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT BASED ON THEIR NEEDS AS DETERMINED BY THE DEFENSE SURVEY,

--B. THAT THIS IS THE SAME PROCEDURE WE FOLLOWED IN SAUDI ARABIA; AND

--C. THAT MEANWHILE WE SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER YARG WOULD LIKE US TO ACCELERATE THE CURRENT PROGRAM AS WE HAVE PROPOSED IN THE MODIFIED PROGRAM PRESENTED TO THEM ON AUGUST 10-11.

GENERAL CATHEY WILL PROBABLY SEE PRINCE SULTAN AGAIN

ON AUGUST 17. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD HAVE
AUTHORIZATION TO TALK TO SAUDIS ALONG THESE LINES AT
THAT TIME.
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